



House of Representatives

File No. 646

General Assembly

February Session, 2016

(Reprint of File No. 154)

House Bill No. 5459
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 14, 2016

AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING IN CULTURAL COMPETENCY FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 20-126l of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2016*):

4 (g) Each licensed dental hygienist applying for license renewal shall
5 earn a minimum of sixteen hours of continuing education within the
6 preceding twenty-four-month period, including, for registration
7 periods beginning on and after October 1, 2016, at least one contact
8 hour of training or education in cultural competency. The subject
9 matter for continuing education shall reflect the professional needs of
10 the licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the public.
11 Continuing education activities shall provide significant theoretical or
12 practical content directly related to clinical or scientific aspects of
13 dental hygiene. Qualifying continuing education activities include, but
14 are not limited to, courses, including on-line courses, that are offered

15 or approved by dental schools and other institutions of higher
16 education that are accredited or recognized by the Council on Dental
17 Accreditation, a regional accrediting organization, the American
18 Dental Association, a state, district or local dental association or society
19 affiliated with the American Dental Association, the National Dental
20 Association, the American Dental Hygienists Association or a state,
21 district or local dental hygiene association or society affiliated with the
22 American Dental Hygienists Association, the Academy of General
23 Dentistry, the Academy of Dental Hygiene, the American Red Cross or
24 the American Heart Association when sponsoring programs in
25 cardiopulmonary resuscitation or cardiac life support, the United
26 States Department of Veterans Affairs and armed forces of the United
27 States when conducting programs at United States governmental
28 facilities, a hospital or other health care institution, agencies or
29 businesses whose programs are accredited or recognized by the
30 Council on Dental Accreditation, local, state or national medical
31 associations, or a state or local health department. Eight hours of
32 volunteer dental practice at a public health facility, as defined in
33 subsection (a) of this section, may be substituted for one hour of
34 continuing education, up to a maximum of five hours in one two-year
35 period. Activities that do not qualify toward meeting these
36 requirements include professional organizational business meetings,
37 speeches delivered at luncheons or banquets, and the reading of books,
38 articles, or professional journals. Not more than four hours of
39 continuing education may be earned through an on-line or other
40 distance learning program.

41 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 20-126l of the general statutes is
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
43 *October 1, 2016*):

44 (a) As used in this section:

45 (1) "General supervision of a licensed dentist" means supervision
46 that authorizes dental hygiene procedures to be performed with the
47 knowledge of said licensed dentist, whether or not the dentist is on the

48 premises when such procedures are being performed;

49 (2) "Public health facility" means an institution, as defined in section
50 19a-490, a community health center, a group home, a school, a
51 preschool operated by a local or regional board of education or a head
52 start program or a program offered or sponsored by the federal Special
53 Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children; [and]

54 (3) The "practice of dental hygiene" means the performance of
55 educational, preventive and therapeutic services including: Complete
56 prophylaxis; the removal of calcerous deposits, accretions and stains
57 from the supragingival and subgingival surfaces of the teeth by
58 scaling, root planing and polishing; the application of pit and fissure
59 sealants and topical solutions to exposed portions of the teeth; dental
60 hygiene examinations and the charting of oral conditions; dental
61 hygiene assessment, treatment planning and evaluation; the
62 administration of local anesthesia in accordance with the provisions of
63 subsection (d) of this section; and collaboration in the implementation
64 of the oral health care regimen; and

65 (4) "Contact hour" means a minimum of fifty minutes of continuing
66 education activity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2016	20-126l(g)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2016	20-126l(a)

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill does not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Public Health as it is not anticipated to alter the number of dental hygienists licensed by the agency. The bill requires at least one contact hour of training or education in cultural competency as part of mandated, continuing education requirements for licensure renewal.

House "A" clarified that training or education requirements are for registration periods on or after 10/1/2016 and that a "contact hour" means a minimum of 50 continuous minutes.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5459 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING IN CULTURAL COMPETENCY
FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires dental hygienists applying for license renewal to complete at least one contact hour (i.e., at least 50 minutes) of education or training in cultural competency. This applies as part of the existing requirement that they take at least 16 hours of continuing education in the preceding 24 months.

Under the bill, the new requirement applies to registration periods beginning on and after October 1, 2016.

By law, continuing education subject matter must reflect the licensee's professional needs to meet the public's health care needs. Continuing education activities must provide significant theoretical or practical content directly related to clinical or scientific aspects of dental hygiene.

*House Amendment "A" applies the continuing education requirement to registration periods beginning on and after October 1, 2016 and defines a "contact hour" as at least 50 minutes of continuing education or training.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 1 (03/07/2016)